

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 02190 01 OF 02 131138Z
ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-08 SS-15 /026 W
-----107365 131256Z /44

R 131025Z SEP 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7680
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN

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STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, GW, WB
SUBJECT: DEA DRUG ENFORCEMENT ARTICLE ON BERLIN

REF: BONN 15974

1. THIS MESSAGE WAS JOINTLY DRAFTED BY THE MISSION PUBLIC
SAFETY ADVISER AND THE NARCOTICS COORDINATORS FROM EMBASSIES
BERLIN AND BONN. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION ARE IN PARA 4.

2. THE JULY ISSUE OF DEA'S PUBLICATION DRUG ENFORCEMENT
CARRIES A BACK-COVER ARTICLE ENTITLED "BERLIN AS A HEROIN
TRANSIT POINT." U.S. MISSION BERLIN PLUS EMBASSIES BONN AND
BERLIN FIND THE ARTICLE SPECIOUS, DETRIMENTAL TO OUR EFFORTS
TO ENLIST GDR COOPERATION AND NEEDLESSLY HARSH TO OUR GERMAN
ALLIES IN BERLIN AND IN THE FRG. THE ARTICLE TAKES ESTIMATES
AND DESCRIPTIONS OF EVENTS SUBMITTED BY THE THREE POSTS AND
HAMMERS THEM INTO A SIMPLISTIC MOLD; OUR ESTIMATES, NOT INTENDED
FOR PUBLICATION, NOW APPEAR AS FACTS IN AN OVERDRAWN AND MIS-
LEADING MANNER.

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3. WEST GERMAN NARCOTICS AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY PROTESTED
THE ARTICLE'S INACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF THEIR CUSTOMS
EFFORTS. WE CAN EXPECT AT BEST SOME COOLNESS, AND AT WORST
SOME BELLIGERENCY FROM THE SENSITIVE WEST BERLIN POLICE,
WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR OVER A YEAR TO DEVELOP
A GOOD DEA/POLICE RELATIONSHIP. IF THE EAST GERMANS REACT

NEGATIVELY TO THE OVERDRAWN ALLEGATIONS AND MUTED ACCUSATIONS OF THEM IN THE ARTICLE, IT COULD SET BACK OVER A YEAR OF EMBASSY BERLIN'S EFFORTS TO ENLIST GDR SUPPORT IN COMBATING DRUG TRAFFICKING THROUGH EAST GERMANY AND EAST BERLIN - EFFORTS WHICH ARE NOW BEGINNING TO LEAD TO A MORE FORTHCOMING GDR ATTITUDE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. TO AVOID RECURRENCE OF SUCH INCIDENTS, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT DEPARTMENT SUGGEST TO DEA THAT S/NM AT A MINIMUM HAVE A CHANCE BEFORE PUBLICATION TO REVIEW ANY ARTICLE IN FUTURE DEALING WITH POLITICALLY SENSITIVE INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF DRUGS.

B. A FOLLOW-UP TO THE JULY ARTICLE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. A GOOD OPPORTUNITY WOULD BE IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT, FOR WHICH AMBASSADOR STOESSEL HAS ALREADY WRITTEN AN ARTICLE AT S/NM SUGGESTION. A SUPPLEMENTARY BOX ALONGSIDE ON BERLIN COULD HELP CORRECT THE MISIMPRESSIONS LEFT BY THE JULY ISSUE. SUGGESTED TEXT MIGHT BE AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: BERLIN. WEST BERLIN HAS RECENTLY EMERGED AS A FOCAL POINT OF CONCERN. LAST YEAR'S HEROIN OVERDOSE DEATHS REACHED AN ALL-TIME HIGH. ALTHOUGH OVERDOSES THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YEAR ARE RUNNING SOMEWHAT BEHIND THE 1977 RATE, AND SEIZURES ARE UP, THE CONTINUED AVAILABILITY OF HEROIN AT LOW PRICES INDICATES A SERIOUS PROBLEM. HEROIN, MOSTLY OF NEAR EASTERN ORIGIN, REACHES THE WESTERN SECTORS OF THE CITY THROUGH A VARIETY OF SURFACE AND AIR ROUTES. TURKISH TRAVELERS HAVE FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN ARRESTS OF SMUGGLERS. MANY SMUGGLERS SEEM TO FAVOR OVERLAND TRAVEL, OFTEN PASSING THROUGH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC BEFORE TRANSITING THE GDR TO BERLIN. OTHERS UTILIZE AIR CONNECTIONS, WITH A CHOICE OF ARRIVING AT TEGEL AIRPORT WITHIN WEST BERLIN OR AT SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT IN THE GDR JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY AND THEN TRAVELING TO THE WESTERN SECTORS DIRECTLY OR THROUGH EAST BERLIN. CONCERN HAS CENTERED PARTICULARLY ON THOSE ARRIVING IN WEST BERLIN VIA SECTOR-SECTOR CROSSING POINTS WITHIN THE CITY. SINCE THE WEST CONSIDERS ALL OF BERLIN STILL TO BE UNDER OCCUPATION STATUS WITH FREE ACCESS BETWEEN SECTORS, THE WESTERN ALLIES DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE LINE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BERLIN AS AN INTERNATIONAL FRONTIER. THIS POLITICALLY IMPORTANT POSITION HAS MEANT FOREGOING REGULAR CUSTOMS CONTROLS ON THE WESTERN SIDE, ALTHOUGH RANDOM SPOT CHECKS ARE MADE. INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLERS ARRIVING AT WEST BERLIN'S TEGEL AIRPORT OR ENTERING WEST BERLIN OVERLAND DIRECTLY FROM THE

GDR VIA THE TRANSIT ROUTES ARE SUBJECT TO NORMAL INTERNATIONAL-
TYPE CUSTOMS CONTROLS.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7681
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN

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WEST GERMAN AND BERLIN POLICE AND CUSTOMS EFFORTS
TO COMBAT THE CITY'S HEROIN PROBLEM DESERVE CREDIT AND ARE
RECEIVING U.S. SUPPORT, INCLUDING DEA ASSISTANCE IN GAINING
INFORMATION CONCERNING TRAFFICKING PATTERNS. LAST YEAR THE
BERLIN POLICE NARCOTICS DIVISION WAS MORE THAN DOUBLED.
THE U.S. ALONG WITH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH PROTECTIVE POWERS
WHO SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SECURITY AND WELL-BEING OF
THE WESTERN SECTORS OF THE CITY HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED
WITH THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES IN SEEKING AND ENCOURAGING
MEASURES WHICH ARE BOTH PRACTICAL AND POLITICALLY REALIZABLE.
IN LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE, THERE IS NO EASY AND QUICK
SOLUTION. THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT
THE AUTHORITIES IN WEST BERLIN, BY CONCENTRATING ON ANTI-
DRUG EFFORTS WITHIN THE WESTERN SECTORS AND DRAWING ON
INCREASING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING
WILL BE ABLE TO STABILIZE AND REDUCE THE FLOW. END TEXT.
ANDERSON

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